

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1048

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Inc. on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this body should recognize those exemplary medical institutions and their remarkable personnel who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are credits to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable institution is Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Inc. (Matthew Walker CHC), which will celebrate its fortieth anniversary in August of 2008; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Walker CHC started its humble beginnings as an extension of Meharry Medical College and Hubbard Hospital as a family oriented ambulatory health center, with the funding originally made possible through a federal loan to the sponsoring organization of Meharry Medical College; the loan was the first of its kind guaranteed by the Federal Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, the new center was named for Dr. Matthew Walker in honor of his lifetime service to the community and to Meharry; Dr. Walker was the chairperson of the Department of Surgery at Meharry, and he participated in the ground-breaking ceremonies at the current site of the health center; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Walker CHC was unique from other health centers in that it was intended to convert the traditional outpatient department of the teaching hospital into a fully comprehensive family health program whose mission was to provide comprehensive health services to the underserved population in one convenient location, to prevent and treat disease, and to provide jobs for persons of low economic and educational backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, today, Matthew Walker CHC continues to serve North Nashville and the Middle Tennessee region by offering a host of services, including family and internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecological care, family planning, ophthalmology, podiatry, preventive and restorative dental care, pharmacy, laboratory and radiology services, social services, specialized diabetes and cardiovascular care, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the exceptional facility is able to offer a wide range of exceptional health care through its accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the American Dental Association, the Certified FDA Mammography Facility, and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the health center began its operations in a temporary, remodeled building until its newly constructed facility was completed in 1969; and

WHEREAS, after a five-year consolidation with the Comprehensive Health Center of Meharry from 1974-1979, Matthew Walker CHC finally became a free-standing primary care facility with emphasis continuing to be placed on the maintenance of good health and the practice of preventive medicine; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Matthew Walker CHC launched a \$5 million capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of a new building; their efforts were successful, and in 2004, the health center relocated to its new state-of-the-art facility on the corner of 14th and historic Jefferson Street at 1035 14th Avenue North; and

WHEREAS, the center expanded its services and opened a new facility in Clarksville in February of 2008 in response to a federal call for community health centers to offer medical treatment in underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Walker CHC has always enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Meharry Medical College and has served as a teaching facility for the college's students by providing placements for the college's medical students and residents, as well as the students from Meharry's School of Dentistry, in addition to the center's health care professionals acting as preceptors for the Meharry Medical College Master's in Public Health Program and the Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical College Health Care Administration and Planning programs; the facility works with other colleges' and organizations' health care

programs, such as the Tennessee State University Health Information Management and the McGruder Family Resource Center and Community Network programs; and

WHEREAS, as the Matthew Walker CHC enters its fifth decade of operation, the dedicated staff and administration, led by Jeff McKissack as the Chief Executive Officer, continue their commitment to fulfilling the center's mission of providing quality health care services and health education and to promote wellness; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is privileged to recognize the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Inc. for its forty years of countless contributions to the well-being of the citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that that we honor and applaud the medical professionals, administrators, and staff of the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Inc. on the occasion of the center's fortieth anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success in providing exceptional health care to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.